

Michigan's educators are among the nation's best and it's important to highlight the incredible work they do every day to provide our next generation with a high-quality education. Whether you're a student, parent, fellow educator, community member or stakeholder, we encourage you to help us shine the spotlight on the all-too-often unsung heroes in our schools across the state. Please consider sharing the success and impact of your outstanding educators through one or more of the opportunities listed below.

Teacher of the Year

In 1952, Michigan was among the first states to create a coordinated teacher recognition program. Now, more than a half century later, this program continues to recognize teachers who have shown dedication to the profession, as evidenced by their commitment to their students and track record of leadership to their fellow teachers, both in their school and throughout Michigan.

Regional Teacher of the Year

The competitive process begins during the fall of each year with a statewide call for nominations. Those who meet the eligibility requirements are then invited to formally apply for the award. One applicant from each of MDE's 10 designated regions then selected by a panel of reviewers and honored as a Regional Teacher of the Year (RTOY).

Michigan Teacher of the Year

One person from the group of Regional Teacher of the Year winners is also named Michigan's Teacher of the Year (MTOY). The MTOY serves as an advocate and spokesperson for the more than 100,000 Michigan teachers at both the state and national level. He/she is also Michigan's candidate for the prestigious National Teacher of the Year award.



NOMINATION WINDOW:

September to October

APPLICATION "PART A" DUE:

Late November

APPLICATION "PART B" DUE:

Late February

RTOY FINALIST INTERVIEWS:

April

MTOY ANNOUNCED:

May

[MICHIGAN.GOV/MTOY](https://michigan.gov/MTOY)

Michigan Teacher Leadership Advisory Council

Together, the Regional Teacher of the Year winners, inclusive of the MTOY, form the Michigan Teacher Leadership Advisory Council (MTLAC). The group's mission is to share issues of importance to teachers and students with MDE, while also providing needed input on proposed department policies and initiatives. During their year of service, MTLAC members provide feedback to MDE through monthly virtual meetings and quarterly face-to-face meetings, sharing best practices and concerns from educators throughout their respective region with MDE staff.



NOMINATION DETAILS:

See above

ANNUAL COHORT DURATION:

August to July

[BIT.LY/-MTLAC](https://bit.ly/-MTLAC)

#proudMeducator

Now in its fourth season, #proudMeducator is a social media driven multi-media campaign designed to honor educators and promote Michigan's teacher workforce as the skilled and valued profession it truly is. To date, nearly 20 videos have been released as part of the series, as well as a compilation of practitioner blog posts and a collaboration with MSU K-12 Outreach to host the Conscious Practitioner Summer Institute in July 2018. To participate in the #proudMeducator campaign, use the hash tag on social media and be sure to like/follow MDE and the Office of Educator Excellence on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

ONGOING

[MICHIGAN.GOV/PROUDMIEDUCATOR](https://michigan.gov/PROUDMIEDUCATOR)

Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

The annual Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) are the nation's highest honors for teachers of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM, including Computer Science). To be eligible, an educator must have five or more years of experience teaching STEM in the applicable grade band for the award year. (NOTE: The program alternates annually between elementary or secondary.)

Each state selects up to three finalists from each award category (mathematics and science) and forwards these applications for review by a selection committee convened by the National Science Foundation. Up to two finalists from each state may then be recommended for the national honors.



 [PAEMST.ORG](https://paemst.org)

NOMINATIONS DUE:

March

APPLICATIONS DUE:

May

STATE FINALISTS ANNOUNCED:

Late June

Michigan Talent Pool

Each year, MDE seeks recommendations for its Talent Pool – a Michigan-centric program designed to identify dynamic K-12 educators across the state who may not typically seek out recognition and/or opportunities, and who would be good candidates to share valuable perspectives with the department on various programs and projects. To qualify, nominees must be an up-and-coming, properly certified educator in the first 5-15 years of his/her career who also directly works with students. He/she must exhibit a strong potential for leadership, exceptional professional achievement and an engaging and inspiring presence that motivates others. Recommendations to the Talent Pool should be submitted by the nominee's supervisor.

 [BIT.LY/_MITALENTPOOL](https://bit.ly/_MITALENTPOOL)

ONGOING

Innovative Educator Corps (IEC)

The Innovative Educator Corps (IEC) program – created as part of the Marshall Plan for Talent (PA 227 of 2018) – aims to support educators who have implemented innovative learning practices and strategies in their classroom to help their students become career ready in high-demand fields. Educators who are accepted into the program receive a \$5,000 personal stipend in recognition of their work, plus a second \$5,000 stipend to help off-set the costs associated with sharing and disseminating the innovative program for replication by teachers across the state. Stipends are paid annually and renewable for up to three years.



 [BIT.LY/MI-IEC](https://bit.ly/MI-IEC)

ONGOING

Troops to Teachers

MDE is proud to recognize and assist those who served our country and now wish to serve our students. Since 1993, the Troops to Teachers program has helped more than 20,000 veterans across the country successfully transition to a career in education. Funded by the Department of Defense, the program aims to get disciplined, motivated and enthusiastic veterans into our classrooms, as well as to address teacher shortage and veteran unemployment problems. The program provides counseling, employment facilitation and financial support services to assist eligible participants in meeting the state's education and licensing requirements.



 [PROUDTOSERVEAGAIN.COM](https://proudtoserveagain.com)

ONGOING

Learn more about honoring outstanding educators at: bit.ly/MDE_Recognition

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